

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As you well know from your own professional activities, it is possible to be so busy that you get nothing done. So it has been since your meeting February 5.

By the time you get this agenda book, the General Assembly will have completed its short session except for a two-day wrap-up March 22-23. Very little legislation having a lasting effect on higher education was enacted but there was, notwithstanding, constant activity. House Bill 303 (Representative Moberly), which would have created a teacher quality trust fund using interest earnings on the existing trust funds, was not enacted. This bill essentially reflected a proposal you made that was included in the budget presented by Governor Patton to the 2000 session of the General Assembly. I still think this is a good idea and hope you will consider advancing it for consideration in 2002. House Bill 17 (Representative Draud), codifying the notion of local P-16 councils, passed both houses and was sent to the Governor.

House Resolution 1 (Representative Clark), relating to the endowment match programs for the research and comprehensive universities, was passed in altered form. The resolution, which is advisory rather than prescriptive, requests the council not to match funds from "university affiliated sources." We shall work with the institutions to ensure that we do not hamstring the fundraising efforts of the two institutions potentially affected, the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky. You might consider the advantages and disadvantages of seeking to codify this program in 2002.

Mary Beth Susman, chief executive officer of the Kentucky Virtual University and Virtual Library, has been invited by Governor Patton to tell the KYVU/KYVL story at a National Governors' Association meeting in Washington March 20. KYVU is the most successful public virtual university start-up in the country. Our major obstacle right now is having enough products (full degree and certificate programs) to offer potential students. We are working with several Kentucky universities, the KCTCS, and other providers to expand the programs available.

We have finished the first round of meetings with the institutions about their benchmark institutions and their 2002-06 goals on performance indicators (especially enrollment, retention, and completion rates). Each institution will propose goals for 2002-06 and then we'll meet again if necessary. Benchmark lists have been agreed to for all institutions except Kentucky State University, Morehead, and possibly Northern Kentucky University.

I am pleased to tell you that Rana Johnson successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Kentucky last month and soon will be Dr. Johnson. Whether some Boswell will write her "life" remains to be seen.